

September 5, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

### **Detroit Free Press: St. Clair County's Mental Health Court is making a difference in people's lives**

"Zach Ulrich was smiling as he exited Probate Judge John Tomlinson's courtroom. A year ago, the 21-year-old man was caught stealing from a grocery store so he could buy drugs. On Tuesday, Ulrich, who deals with an autism spectrum disorder, graduated from the Mental Health Court program."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Times Herald/Port Huron: Staying out of trouble: Mental Health Court is making a difference in people's lives**

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**

### **Detroit Free Press: DMC loses appeal over biker's \$111K bill**

"An insurance company is off the hook in a dispute over a motorcycle wreck and a \$111,000 hospital bill. Detroit Medical Center wants to recover the costs of treating a motorcyclist who was traveling around 100 m.p.h. when he saw the bright lights of a car and lost control."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Associated Press: Hospital loses appeal over biker's \$111K bill**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Judge rejects most Open Meetings Act claims in Detroit emergency manager lawsuit**

"An Ingham County judge has rejected claims that Gov. Rick Snyder and Treasurer Andy Dillon unlawfully acted as 'a one-man committee' in selecting Washington, D.C., attorney Kevyn Orr as Detroit's emergency manager. Highland Park union activist Robert Davis filed a lawsuit under the Open Meetings Act, alleging the state Emergency Loan Board merely rubber-stamped a decision that had already been made when it appointed Orr at a public meeting March 14."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Judge: Officials didn't violate Open Meetings Act in Detroit emergency manager appointment**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Judge in Open Meetings Act lawsuit over Detroit EM appointment dismisses most claims, finds two violations**

[Full story](#)

### **Bay City Times: Bay County Probate Court seeks extra \$225,000 from county due to high demand for foster care**

"A high number of petitions to remove children from homes due to neglect and abuse has the Bay County Probate Court requesting an extra \$225,000 from county coffers. The Board of Commissioners' Ways and Means Committee agreed to lend the money at a Tuesday, Sept. 3, meeting, with a promise from Probate Judge Karen Tighe that the court would reimburse the county half the amount at a later date."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Pro Shop**

"The State Bar of Michigan Professionalism in Action orientation program for the fall freshman class at the Cooley Law School Auburn Campus was held Aug. 26. Several judges and lawyers participated as discussion group leaders, including Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly, who was the keynote speaker."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Longtime Livonia judge Robert Brzezinski remembered for dedication to his city, sense of humor**

"For former 16th District Judge Robert Brzezinski, his work on the bench was as crucial as his work off the bench.... Brzezinski, a former judge in Livonia's District Court for 25 years, died Saturday after battling leukemia. He was 76."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Gun-toting teen's lawsuit against Birmingham dismissed in court**

"A federal judge has tossed out a lawsuit that a rifle-toting teenager filed against Birmingham and several of the city's police officers, according to a release sent out by the city on Wednesday. Sean Michael Combs had just turned 18 in April 2012 and was a senior at Troy High School when he was stopped in downtown Birmingham for walking around with a loaded rifle."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **MLive.com: Birmingham police didn't violate rifle-toting teen's Fourth Amendment rights, court rules**

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press: Teen arrested for carrying rifle around downtown Birmingham loses civil lawsuit against city**

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Ingham County 30th Circuit Judge Laura Baird elected Vice President of the Michigan Judges Association**

"Hon. Laura Baird, Ingham County Circuit Court Judge, has been elected Vice-President of the Michigan Judges Association (MJA). The Michigan Judges Association, founded in 1927, represents Circuit and Court of Appeals judges in the state. Its stated goal is to serve the public through judicial excellence."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: Michigan Judges Association names its Gage award winner**

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: State Bar to Honor 2013 Award Winners at Sept. 18 Banquet in Lansing**

"... Eleven major SBM awards will be presented at a special banquet held in conjunction with the SBM Annual Meeting, which will take place on September 18.... The Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award goes to Hon. Donna T. Morris, Midland probate judge.... [The Champion of Justice Award will be presented to five attorneys including Kay Stanfield Spinks.] ... She was the first African American female jurist in Oakland County when she was appointed a 46th District Court magistrate in 1987 and held the position for 23 years while maintaining a private practice."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Child protection toolkit to help judges, lawyers with child placements**

"Appropriate placements for children in abuse and neglect cases - either reuniting child and family or finding another permanent home - is the goal of a new online toolkit aimed at judges and lawyers who handle child protection cases. Created by the Child Welfare Services Division of the Supreme Court Administrative Office, the toolkit is organized by hearings at various stages in child protection proceedings."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Jackson County Legal News.**

### **Jackson County Legal News: Former Jackson County judge to receive Access to Justice Award**

"[State Court Administrator Chad Schmucker] oversees administration of all the state's trial courts, [five] regional State Court Administrator Office offices and all SCAO divisions, including the Michigan Judicial Institute, Judicial Information Systems, Child Welfare Services, Friend of the Court Bureau, Office of Dispute Resolution, Statistical Research, and Trial Court Services.... Schmucker was Circuit Judge in Jackson County from 1991 to 2011, serving as that court's Chief Judge from 1996 to 2001 and 2004 to 2009."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon County's federally certified court for U.S. combat veterans would be Michigan's first**

"A Muskegon County alternative court for high-risk, high-need combat veterans would be the first such court in Michigan to be certified by the U.S. Department of Justice. Muskegon County District Court Judge Michael Nolan and David Eling, the county's director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, gave a presentation on the project to the Muskegon County Commissioners at a Tuesday, Sept. 3 meeting."

[Full story](#)

### **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Detroit court protestors: "War on workers" has got to stop**

"Detroit's 36th District Court employees say they haven't gotten a raise in six years. They saw dozens of fellow coworkers get laid-off this summer. Now, they're all facing a 10% pay cut and higher health care costs. Some employees held a protest outside Wednesday afternoon."

[Full story](#)